Pacifists had insisted that in another war it would be necessary to drive unwilling men into battle at the bayonet's point; when war came, willing men greatly exceeded the demand, and only grieved that no battle was available. Those who hoped through another war to recover their lost youth, found that their youth and war were alike irretrievably lost; that neither could be recovered.

Having gone to war, it was necessary to discover why the war was being fought. Many minds, previously preoccupied with peace aims, now turned their attention to war aims. A war must have some purpose; if lives and money were to be expended, something must be achieved. Rather wearily, hopes which had done service before were revived. A better world would come of this struggle, a freer world, a world whence war and poverty, cruelty s,nd arrogance, had been banished. The Good Life would come of this struggle. Mr. Vernon Bartlett found it a privilege to be alive when so promising a future opened before mankind; Mr. Harold Nicolson comforted himself with the prospect of the achievement of [6]a world which is worth fighting for; a world without conceit or cruelty, without greed and lies.'[7] The League of Nations was in too derelict a condition to provide even a war aim, but Federation would do instead. Let men federate or utterly perish.

Some imagined it might be so—politicians seated round a table with maps unrolled, drawing frontiers, debating, bargain-ing, lurching and dining together, emitting cigar-smoke as they

fashioned a European, or perhaps a World, Federation. Mistakes which |iad been made before must not be made again, Czecho-slovak^ borders less precariously arranged, Poland's more ingeniously drawn, Federal Covenant securer than League One had prpved. Some imagined it might be so, but they were few. Most kkew in their hearts that whatever else the outcome might

[1] See *'Why Britain Is At War*.